

A
REVIEW
OF THE
STATE
OF THE
BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 6. 1708.

I Am now by the Order of my Design, and in the Course of these Papers, to shew you, whether the Dissenters in Scotland have insulted the Church or no, whether the legally called Ministers have obtain'd legal Admission or no, and whether the Church has been rabbled in these Cases of Intrusion or no. resolv'd also to bring you such Authorities, as no Body shall be able to defeat — And when this sad Story is finished, I have more without Number to follow.

NN, By the Grace of God, Queen of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To Macers of our Privy Council, Messengers at Arms, our Sheriffs in that Part, Conjun&ly and Severally, Specially constitute, Greeting. Forasmuch as it is humbly meanted and shown to us by our Lovit John Blair, Agent to the Kirk, and Sir James Stuart our Advocate, and by special Order of Privy-Council for our Interest. That whereby the fifth Act of the Parliament 1690, Entituled A^t, Ratifying the Confession of Faith,

Faith, and settling Presbyterian Church Government; The Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline are ratified and confirm'd to be the only Government of Christ's Church within this Kingdon, which is also thereafter several times ratified, and particularly by the second Act of the Parliament 1703. Whereby in the Case of Vacancy of any particular Paroch within the Bounds of any Presbytery, the Care and Cure of the said Paroch doth devolve upon the Presbytery for the supplying and planting thereof. In consequence whereof the Lords of our Privy-Council have ordain'd such vacant Churches to be patent, and the Keys thereof to be deliver'd to the said Presbytery. Like as by the Act of Parliament 1698, Entitl'd Act for preventing Disorders in the supplying and planting vacant Churches, for remedying the Godless Abuse of Rabbling, that so frequently happens in Opposition to Minister, orderly sent to supply vacant Churches, all Persons are strictly prohibit and discharg'd to make any Opposition by Rabble and Tumult, or any other Manner of Violence to any Ministers, lawfully authoriz'd, and sent to supply the said Vacancy; and that under the Pain of one hundred Pound upon every Heritor or Life-Renter, and of fifty Marks upon any other unlanded Person, toies quoses, and that such as are not able to pay, that they be punish'd in their Persons, as the Lords of Privy-Council shall see Cause. Like as for the better repressing of the said Rabbling and Violence, the seventh Act of the Parliament 1693, Entitl'd Act anent invading of Ministers, is ratified and thereto extended, with the Alterations contained in the said Act 1698. Like as by the same Act, the Proclamation of Council made in the Year 1690, for the delivering the Keys of the vacant Churches to the Presbyteries, or their Order, is also ratified, and full Provision made for the better Execution thereof. And farder by the Act of Parliament 1687, Entitl'd Act for Punishment of Troublers of the Kirk, and Invaders of Ministers, It is statute, that whatsoever shall perturb the Order of the Kirk in Time of Divine Service, or make any Tumult, raise any Fray, either in the Kirk or Kirk-

Yard, where-thro' the People convened shall happen to be disorder'd, troubled or dispers'd, the Persons convict thereof shall tyne all their moveable Goods as Escheat, but Prejudice of greater Punishments, if there happen any greater Offence. And farder, that whatsoever Person or Persons invades any Minister, or puts any violent Hands on him for any forged Quarrel, shall be punisht therefor with all Rigour, and shall incur the Tinsel and Escheat of all their Moveables. Like as by several Acts of Parliament the Prophanation of the Lord's-Day is most strictly prohibit under the Pains therein mentioned. Nevertheless, It is of Verity, that the Persons after-named are guilty of transgessing the fore-laid Laws and Acts of Parliament in manner after mentioned, in so far as that Mr. John Macra late Incumbent at Dingwall having deceas'd, and the Kirk and Paroch thereof becoming thereby vacant, the United Presbytery of Ross and Sutherland having met in January last, did appoint Master William Stuart Minister of Killterne, the next adjacent Paroch to Dingwall, and one of their own Number, to supply the said Vacancy the next Lord's-Day. Whereupon the said Mr. William did on Saturday the 15th of the said Month send a Letter to the Magistrates of Dingwall, signifying to them the said Appointment. To which Answer was return'd by John Dingwall late Baily, and one of the Coucil of the said Burgh, That Mr. William should be as wellcome as any of that Sort of Ministers; and the next Day being the Lord's-Day, Mr. Stuart came to the said John Dingwall's, having none with-him but a Servant, where, as he thought, he was weell receiv'd, and direk'ted by the Mistress of the House to an outer Chamber; but perceiving a Rabble of Women and Others about the Church some Hours before the ordinary Time of Worship, he call'd for his Landlord, but he could not be hit, which mov'd Mr. Stuart to send Alex. Munro of Killiechan, one of his own Parochiniers (who had follow'd him to hear Sermon), to the Magistrates to tell them, that if they had any Regard to God, to him, or themselves, they should come and speak with him, and compesce the Tumult, but none of them were

were to be found. Thereafter a Multitude of Women, amongst whom were *Barbara Bayne*, Spouse to *George Mackenzie* late *Baily of Dingwall*; *Margaret Kemp*, Spouse to *John Dingwall*, late *Baily there*, and *Mistress* of the House where *Mr. Stuart* was lodg'd; *Isabel Dingwall*, Spouse to *Colline Macleay* *Town-Thesaurer there*; *Janet* and *Isabel Dingwall*, Daughters to the *Deceas'd Donald Dingwall*, sometime *Baily there*, being Ring-leaders of the Rabble, came with *Barrons*, and *Stones*, and *Clods*, and surrouding the Ministers Chamber, made his outer Door fast with Nails; and when *Mr. Stuart* chaleng'd them for so fastening his Door, he was answer'd with reviling Language, and going to a Window to speak to the Multitude, if possibly he could appease them, he was met with a Shower of *Clods* and *Stones*. Which Rabble and Fray was rais'd that Morning principally by one *Murdock Mackenzie* *vie urchie*, Nephew to *Donald Dingwall Sheriff Officer*, who came early to *Dingwall*, and warned all the Women in and about it to rendezvous at the Bridge-End of *Dingwall*, to oppose the *Vvhigs*, as he said, and that he was order'd to do under the Pain of being fisted. *Master Stuart* the Minister being in this Plight, and hearing that *Sir Robert Maara of Formie*, a *Justice of Peace*, and some others out of his own Paroch of *Killterne*, were come to hear Sermon, he cry'd, and requir'd the said *Sir Robert* to make Access to the Church in the most peaceable Manner, that the People that were come to hear might enter, and that thereafter he should come and relieve him; *Sir Robert* was oppos'd by the said Rabble, mal-treating, and beating his Servants; especially at their entring the Church-yard, five several Men and Women covén'd therefor in another Libel, and notwithstanding that *Sir Robert* requir'd them in her Majesty's Name not to interrupt Access to the Kirk. But there was no Access given, until *Sir Robert* order'd some Persons to go in at a Window, which had neither Glass nor Stanchel, and remove the Barricadoe from behind one Door of the Church, the other

Door being so strongly bolted and fastened with Nails, that it could not be moved: After this, *Sir Robert* going to relieve *Mr. Stuart* the Minister, as he brought him from the House to the Kirk, they were pursued by the Rabble, especially by the foresaid *Margaret Kemp*, and *Janet* and *Isabel Dingwalls*, casting Stones, Clods and Dirt at them; and when the Worship was begun and almost finish'd, such was the Mischief of the Rabble, that they had gathered a Company of armed Men from the Country about, amongst whom were as chief Ring-leaders, *John Macra* *vig.alistir olg*, *Hugh Macra*, Brother to the said *Deceas'd Mr. John Macra*, late Incumbent at *Dingwall*, *Kenneth Macra* Brother German to *Ferguard Macra* of *Inverienatt* . . . *Macra*, Son to *Christopher Macra*, Brother German to the said *Deceas'd Mr. John Macra*, all Four in the Paroch of *Kittail*, and *Murdo Mac Gillichillie* in *Achnoocie* in the Paroch of *Urray*, Who coming with their Complices with *Staves*, *Forks* and *Kebbers*, so alarm'd the People in the Kirk, and at Worship, that they were all disturb'd and frighted out of the Church, except the Minister and a few with him; and then the Persons above-named seeking to enter, upon Pretence that they were coming to attend the Worship; so soon as enter'd, having only short Coats, and Arms in their Hands, the said *John Macra* *vig.alistir* came up to the Door of the Pulpit, and presented a Pistol to the Minister, threatening to kill him, until stopt by some of the Hearers. Whereupon the rest of the armed Men approached nearer, and scrambling over the Seats to get to the Pulpit, with menacing Countenances, and Arms in their Hands, they commanded *Mr. Stuart* to come down and begon, which constrain'd him to retire, while some of his Hearers put a Stop to their Fury; after which, as the Minister was withdrawing through the Church-yard, a Company of his Hearers inclosed him for his Preservation, that they might go off in Peace.

The Remainder of this will follow in our next

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Lately Publish'd,
A New Description of the World, delineating Europe, Asia, Africa, and America; with a Map and Tables of the Empires, Kingdoms, Provinces, and Cities therein, together with a Chronological and Historical Account of the Emperors, Kings, Princes, Governments, Religion, Languages, Customs, Commodities, Revolutions, and Rarities thereof. By H. Curson, Gent: Sold by John Morpew, near Stationers-Ball. (Price 2*s.*)

The CREDITORS of King CHARLES, King JAMES, and King WILLIAM,

Having found out and discover'd sufficient Funds for Securing a Perpetual Interest for four Millions, without Burthening the People, Clogging the Trade, or Impairing the Revenue— And all their Debts not amounting near to that sum— The more to strengthen their Interest therein, and to find the greater Favour with the Parliaments, they have agreed, That the Army, and Transport-Debenters, and other Parliaments Debts may, if they please, joyn with them; and it is not expected, that any great Debts shall pay any Charge for the carrying on this Act, until it be happily accomplish'd, and no more will be expected afterwards, than what shall be readily agreed to before-hand, neither shall any be hinder'd from taking any other Measures, if there should be but a Suspicion of Miscarriage, which is impossible, if they unite their Interest—

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